

City of Costa Mesa

City Council Meeting

Service Request Follow-up

Meeting Date: March 15, 2005

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Peter Naghavi, Transportation Services Manager 

DATE: April 13, 2005

SUBJECT: 19th Street Bicycle Trail Connection to Santa Ana River Regional Trail

As requested, staff has evaluated the feasibility of providing bicycle lanes on 19th Street and connecting to Santa Ana River Trail.

19th Street is not classified as a bicycle facility on the City's Master Plan of Bikeways (MPB). Currently, 19th Street is striped with four lanes with a two-way left-turn lane between Harbor Boulevard and Placentia Avenue. Parking is generally provided along 19th Street for use by various businesses. West of Placentia Avenue, 19th Street narrows to one lane in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane. The two-way left-turn lane is heavily used for accessing the various commercial properties along both sides of 19th Street. Provision of bicycle lanes on 19th Street will require removal of on-street parking, the two-way left-turn lanes, or the widening of the street as adequate paved width does not exist. The removal of on-street parking, or the two-way left-turn lanes is not feasible due to their heavy use. Furthermore, bicycle lanes on W. 19th Street would terminate at Harbor Boulevard or Newport Boulevard, as there are no bicycle lanes on the above roadways.

On the west of Marina View Park, 19th Street is within the City of Newport Beach jurisdiction and terminates at Balboa Drive, approximately 1/2 mile east of Santa Ana River. Between 19th Street and Santa Ana River is the large private property that is owned by Banning Ranch. Talbert Nature Preserve, which is under County of Orange jurisdiction, is to the north of the 19th Street extension alignment.

Therefore, even if bicycle lanes were installed on 19th Street in the City of Costa Mesa, there could be no direct connection to the Santa Ana River Trail without involvement by the City of Newport Beach, private landowner, and the County of Orange. The construction of a bicycle trail within this vicinity may require environmental clearance due to the sensitive environmental conditions in this area. Given City of Newport Beach's position on 19th Street extension, they may tie the bicycle lane or trail provision to the 19th Street bridge project.

Due to the above issues, staff does not find the proposal of bicycle lanes on W. 19th Street feasible. Bicycle trail connections to the Santa Ana River trail currently exist from the paralleling facilities on Victoria Street, Adams Avenue and Gisler Avenue.

Please contact me at extension 5182 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

- c Allan Roeder, City Manager
- William J. Morris, Public Services Director
- ✓ Raja Sethuraman, Associate Engineer